

Message Text

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51

ACTION SY-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /014 W

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R 231050Z APR 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2643

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 6589

FOR A/SY/FO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: COURIER POUCH TEMPORARILY OUT OF CONTROL

REF: BANGKOK 6443

1. ON APRIL 20, 1974, COURIER JAMES W. WAIGHT, WHILE PREPARING TO DEPART BANGKOK ON PA-002 TO NEW DELHI/TEHRAN, DISCOVERED HIS WORKBAG WAS MISSING. HE CONTACTED THE MARINE GUARD AT THE EMBASSY AND REQUESTED A CHECK BE MADE OF THE POUCHROOM. THE MARINE GUARD SUBSEQUENTLY LOCATED THE WORKBAG ON THE DRIVEWAY OF THE LOADING DOCK AREA AT THE EMBASSY AND SECURED IT. WAIGHT NOTIFIED HIS SUPERVISOR AND WAS INSTRUCTED TO CONTINUE ON HIS TRIP. THE POUCH WAS OUT OF HIS CONTROL APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR 45 MINUTES.

2. THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE WORKBAG WAS INSPECTED BY THE RSO, BRDC CHIEF ALFRED VERRIER, AND DEPUTY BRDC OFFICER ERNEST HOHMAN. THE WORKBAG WAS INTACT AND THE SEALS ON THE NINE POUCHES WITHIN THE WORKBAG WERE EXAMINED AND APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD ORDER. THE POUCHES WERE OPENED AND ALL CONTENTS WERE ACCOUNTED FOR AND APPEARED IN GOOD ORDER. THERE WAS NO SIGN THEY HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH. THE ITEMS IN THE POUCH WERE AN ASSORTMENT OF LOU, CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET AND FOUR TOP SECRET ITEMS. THE LOCK ON WAIGHT'S WORKBAG HAS AN IDENTIFYING NUMBER SCRATCHED ON IT AND A CHECK OF THE COURIER FILES INDICATED IT WAS THE SAME AS THE ONE

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ISSUED TO WAIGHT.

3. CONSIDERING ALL FACTORS INVOLVED, THE TIME FRAME,
THE LOCATION WHERE THE WORKBAG WAS LEFT, THE LOCK NUMBER,
THE CONDITION OF THE POUCHES, SEALS AND CONTENTS, THE
LIKELIHOOD OF COMPROMISE OF ANY OF THE DOCUMENTS IS EXTREMELY
REMOTE.

4. THE BRDCO CHIEF HAS NOTIFIED HIS OFFICE CONCERNING
THE FAILURE ON WAIGHT'S PART TO SAFEGUARD THE POUCH. THE
RSO WILL INTERVIEW WAIGHT UPON HIS RETURN FROM HIS CURRENT
COURIER RUN.
KINTNER

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NNN

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